

[0073]

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A herbal composition which comprises:
 - (a) an extract from the leaves or seed of *Sesbania aegyptiaca* (sesban); and
 - (b) at least one additional herbal extract selected from the group consisting of seed of *Nigella sativa*, shoot of *Cichorium intybus* (pumilum), whole plant of *Cymbopogon proximus*, rhizome of *Hemidesmus indicus*, leaves of *Solenostema argel*, rhizome of *Rheum officinale*, and fruit of *Ecballium elaterium*.
2. The herbal composition according to claim 1, further comprising at least one auxiliary herbal extract selected from the group consisting of seed of *Foeniculum vulgare*, shoot of *Centaureum erythrae* (spicatum or pulchellum), flowers, leaves or stem of *Cynara cardunculus* var scolymus, root of *Inula helenium* (viscosa) and seed of *Cuminum cyminum*.
3. The herbal composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition comprises extracts from:
 - (a) seed of *Foeniculum vulgare*;
 - (b) seed of *Nigella sativa*;
 - (c) shoot of *Centaureum erythrae* (spicatum or pulchellum);
 - (d) flowers, leaves or stem of *Cynara cardunculus* var scolymus;
 - (e) root of *Inula helenium* (viscosa);
 - (f) leaves of *Solenostema argel*;
 - (g) leaves or seed of *Sesbania aegyptiaca* (sesban);
 - (h) shoot of *Cichorium intybus* (pumilum);
 - (i) whole plant of *Cymbopogon proximus*;
 - (j) rhizome of *Hemidesmus indicus*;
 - (k) rhizome of *Rheum officinale*; and
 - (l) seed of *Cuminum cyminum*.
4. The herbal composition according to claim 3, wherein:
 - (a) the seed of *Foeniculum vulgare* is present in an amount from about 12% to about 36% by weight;
 - (b) the seed of *Nigella sativa* is present in an amount from about 11.5% to about 34.5% by weight;
 - (c) the shoot of *Centaureum erythrae* (spicatum or pulchellum) is present in an amount from about 5% to about 15% by weight;

- (d) the flowers, leaves or stem of *Cynara cardunculus* var *scolymus* is present in an amount from about 3.5% to about 10.5% by weight;
- (e) the root of *Inula helenium* (viscosa) is present in an amount from about 3% to about 9% by weight;
- (f) the leaves of *Solenostema argel* is present in an amount from about 1% to about 6% by weight;
- (g) the leaves or seed of *Sesbania aegyptiaca* (sesban) is present in an amount from about 0.5% to about 8% by weight;
- (h) the shoot of *Cichorium intybus* (pumilum) is present in an amount from about 3% to about 9% by weight;
- (i) the whole plant of *Cymbopogon proximus* is present in an amount from about 3.5% to about 10.5% by weight; and
- (j) the rhizome of *Hemidesmus indicus* is present in an amount from about 1% to about 3% by weight;
- (k) the rhizome of *Rheum officinale* is present in an amount from about 1% to about 3% by weight; and
- (l) the seed of *Cuminum cyminum* is present in an amount from about 1% to about 3% by weight.
5. The herbal composition according to claim 4, wherein:
- (a) the seed of *Foeniculum vulgare* is about 24% by weight;
- (b) the seed of *Nigella sativa* is about 23% by weight;
- (c) the shoot of *Centaurium erythrae* (spicatum or pulchellum) is about 11% by weight;
- (d) the flowers, leaves or stem of *Cynara cardunculus* var *scolymus* is about 7% by weight;
- (e) the root of *Inula helenium* (viscosa) is about 6% by weight;
- (f) the leaves of *Solenostema argel* is about 4% by weight;
- (g) the leaves or seed of *Sesbania aegyptiaca* (sesban) is about 6% by weight;
- (h) the shoot of *Cichorium intybus* (pumilum) is about 6% by weight;
- (i) the whole plant of *Cymbopogon proximus* is about 7% by weight;
- (j) the rhizome of *Hemidesmus indicus* is about 2% by weight;
- (k) the rhizome of *Rheum officinale* is about 2% by weight; and
- (l) the seed of *Cuminum cyminum* is about 2% by weight.
6. The herbal composition of claim 1, further comprising a physiologically-acceptable carrier.
7. The herbal composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition comprises extracts from:
- root of *Inula helenium* (viscosa);

shoot of *Centaurium erythrae* (spicatum or pulchellum);
seed of *Nigella sativa*;
leaves or seed of *Sesbania aegyptiaca* (sesban); and
rhizome of *Hemidesmus indicus*.

8. The herbal composition according to claim 7, wherein:
the root of *Inula helenium* (viscosa) is present in an amount from about 3% to about 17% by weight;
the shoot of *Centaurium erythrae* (spicatum or pulchellum) is present in an amount from about 5% to about 27% by weight;
the seed of *Nigella sativa* is present in an amount from about 11.5% to about 60% by weight;
the leaves or seed of *Sesbania aegyptiaca* (sesban) is present in an amount from about 0.5% to about 40% by weight; and
the rhizome of *Hemidesmus indicus* is present in an amount from about 1% to about 7% by weight.
9. The herbal composition according to claim 8, wherein:
the root of *Inula helenium* (viscosa) is about 10% by weight;
the shoot of *Centaurium erythrae* (spicatum or pulchellum) is about 16% by weight;
the seed of *Nigella sativa* is about 60% by weight;
the leaves or seed of *Sesbania aegyptiaca* (sesban) is about 8% by weight; and
the rhizome of *Hemidesmus indicus* is about 5% by weight.
10. The herbal composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition comprises extracts from:
rhizome of *Hemidesmus indicus*;
flowers, leaves or stem of *Cynara cardunculus* var scolymus;
shoot of *Centaurium erythrae* (spicatum or pulchellum);
seed of *Foeniculum vulgare*;
leaves of *Solenostema argel*;
shoot of *Cichorium intybus*; and
leaves or seed of *Sesbania aegyptiaca* (sesban).
11. The herbal composition according to claim 10, wherein:
the rhizome of *Hemidesmus indicus* is present in an amount from about 1% to about 7% by weight;
the flowers, leaves or stem of *Cynara cardunculus* var scolymus is present in an amount from about 3.5% to about 26.5% by weight;

the shoot of *Centaureum erythrae* (spicatum or pulchellum) is present in an amount from about 5% to about 27% by weight;
the seed of *Foeniculum vulgare* is present in an amount from about 12% to about 60% by weight;
the leaves of *Solenostema argel* is present in an amount from about 1% to about 7% by weight;
the shoot of *Cichorium intybus* is present in an amount from about 3% to about 17% by weight; and
the leaves or seed of *Sesbania aegyptiaca* (sesban) is present in an amount from about 0.5% to about 19.5% by weight.

12. The herbal composition according to claim 11, wherein:

the rhizome of *Hemidesmus indicus* is about 4% by weight;
the flowers, leaves or stem of *Cynara cardunculus* var *scolymus* is about 15% by weight;
the shoot of *Centaureum erythrae* (spicatum or pulchellum) is about 17% by weight;
the seed of *Foeniculum vulgare* is about 39% by weight;
the leaves of *Solenostema argel* is about 4% by weight;
the shoot of *Cichorium intybus* is about 10% by weight; and
the leaves or seed of *Sesbania aegyptiaca* (sesban) is about 10% by weight.

13. The herbal composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition comprises extracts from:

seed of *Nigella sativa*;
shoot of *Centaureum erythrae* (spicatum or pulchellum);
leaves or seed of *Sesbania aegyptiaca* (sesban);
seed of *Foeniculum vulgare*; and
whole plant of *Cymbopogon proximus*.

14. The herbal composition according to claim 13, wherein:

the seed of *Nigella sativa* is present in an amount from about 11.5% to about 60% by weight;
the shoot of *Centaureum erythrae* (spicatum or pulchellum) is present in an amount from about 5% to about 27% by weight;
the leaves or seed of *Sesbania aegyptiaca* (sesban) is present in an amount from about 0.5% to about 19.5% by weight;
the seed of *Foeniculum vulgare* is present in an amount from about 12% to about 34% by weight; and
the whole plant of *Cymbopogon proximus* is present in an amount from about 3.5% to about 26.5% by weight.

15. The herbal composition according to claim 14, wherein:
the seed of *Nigella sativa* is about 40% by weight;
the shoot of *Centaureum erythrae* (spicatum or pulchellum) is about 12% by weight;
the leaves or seed of *Sesbania aegyptiaca* (sesban) is about 10% by weight;
the seed of *Foeniculum vulgare* is about 23% by weight; and
the whole plant of *Cymbopogon proximus* is about 15% by weight.
16. The herbal composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition comprises extracts from:
rhizome of *Rheum officinale*;
seed of *Cuminum cyminum*;
root of *Inula helenium* (viscosa);
flower or leaves of *Cynara cardunculus* var scolymus;
seed of *Foeniculum vulgare*; and
leaves or seed of *Sesbania aegyptiaca* (sesban).
17. The herbal composition according to claim 16, wherein:
the rhizome of *Rheum officinale* is present in an amount from about 1% to about 5% by weight;
the seed of *Cuminum cyminum* is present in an amount from about 1% to about 7% by weight;
the root of *Inula helenium* (viscosa) is present in an amount from about 3% to about 20% by weight;
the flowers, leaves or stem of *Cynara cardunculus* var scolymus is present in an amount from about 3.5% to about 46.5% by weight;
the seed of *Foeniculum vulgare* is present in an amount from about 12% to about 20% by weight; and
the leaves or seed of *Sesbania aegyptiaca* (sesban) is present in an amount from about 0.5% to about 19.5% by weight.
18. The herbal composition according to claim 17, wherein:
the rhizome of *Rheum officinale* is about 3% by weight;
the seed of *Cuminum cyminum* is about 4% by weight;
the root of *Inula helenium* (viscosa) is about 15% by weight;
the flower or leaves of *Cynara cardunculus* var scolymus is about 25% by weight;
the seed of *Foeniculum vulgare* is about 42% by weight; and
the leaves or seed of *Sesbania aegyptiaca* (sesban) is about 10% by weight.

19. A method for treating a viral infection, which comprises administering to a subject an effective amount of a primary herbal composition which comprises:

- Elaterium*
- (a) an extract from the leaves or seed of *Sesbania aegyptiaca* (sesban); and
 - (b) at least one additional herbal extract selected from the group consisting of seed of *Nigella sativa*, shoot of *Cichorium intybus* (pumilum), whole plant of *Cymbopogon proximus*, rhizome of *Hemidesmus indicus*, leaves of *Solenostema argel*, rhizome of *Rheum officinale*, and fruit of *Ecballium elaterium*.

20. The method according to claim 19, wherein the viral infection is hepatitis B, hepatitis C or a combination thereof.

21. The method according to claim 19, wherein the subject is a mammal

22. The method according to claim 21, wherein the mammal is a human.

23. The method according to claim 19, wherein the subject is in the need of such treatment.

24. The method according to claim 19, wherein the primary herbal composition does not contain *Ecballium elaterium* and includes two additional herbal extracts other than *Ecballium elaterium*.

25. The method according to claim 24, which further comprises administering to the subject a secondary herbal composition comprising an extract of the fruit of *Ecballium elaterium*.

26. The method according to claim 19, wherein the primary herbal composition further comprises at least one auxiliary herbal extract selected from the group consisting of seed of *Foeniculum vulgare*, shoot of *Centaureum erythrae* (spicatum or pulchellum), flowers, leaves or stem of *Cynara cardunculus* var scolymus, root of *Inula helenium* (viscosa) and seed of *Cuminum cyminum*.

27. The method according to claim 19, wherein the primary herbal composition comprises extracts from:

- (a) seed of *Foeniculum vulgare*;
- (b) seed of *Nigella sativa*;
- (c) shoot of *Centaureum erythrae* (spicatum or pulchellum);
- (d) flowers, leaves or stem of *Cynara cardunculus* var scolymus;
- (e) root of *Inula helenium* (viscosa);
- (f) leaves of *Solenostema argel*;
- (g) leaves or seed of *Sesbania aegyptiaca* (sesban);
- (h) shoot of *Cichorium intybus* (pumilum);
- (i) whole plant of *Cymbopogon proximus*;
- (j) rhizome of *Hemidesmus indicus*;

- (k) rhizome of *Rheum officinale*; and
(l) seed of *Cuminum cyminum*.
28. The method according to claim 27, which further comprises administering to the subject a secondary herbal composition comprising an extract of the fruit of *Ecballium elaterium*.
29. The method according to claim 27, wherein the primary herbal composition is in the form of a powder and is administered orally in a dosage of 1 to 5 grams, three times per day.
30. The method according to claim 28, wherein the secondary herbal composition is in the form of a liquid and is administered orally in a dosage of 2 drops, two times per day.
31. The method according to claim 27, wherein:
- (a) the seed of *Foeniculum vulgare* is present in an amount from about 12% to about 36% by weight;
 - (b) the seed of *Nigella sativa* is present in an amount from about 11.5% to about 34.5% by weight;
 - (c) the shoot of *Centaureum erythrae* (spicatum or pulchellum) is present in an amount from about 5% to about 15% by weight;
 - (d) the flowers, leaves or stem of *Cynara cardunculus* var *scolymus* is present in an amount from about 3.5% to about 10.5% by weight;
 - (e) the root of *Inula helenium* (viscosa) is present in an amount from about 3% to about 9% by weight;
 - (f) the leaves of *Solenostema argel* is present in an amount from about 1% to about 6% by weight;
 - (g) the leaves or seed of *Sesbania aegyptiaca* (sesban) is present in an amount from about 0.5% to about 8% by weight;
 - (h) the shoot of *Cichorium intybus* (pumilum) is present in an amount from about 3% to about 9% by weight;
 - (i) the whole plant of *Cymbopogon proximus* is present in an amount from about 3.5% to about 10.5% by weight; and
 - (j) the rhizome of *Hemidesmus indicus* is present in an amount from about 1% to about 3% by weight;
 - (k) the rhizome of *Rheum officinale* is present in an amount from about 1% to about 3% by weight; and
 - (l) the seed of *Cuminum cyminum* is present in an amount from about 1% to about 3% by weight.
32. The method according to claim 31, wherein:
- (a) the seed of *Foeniculum vulgare* is about 24% by weight;
 - (b) the seed of *Nigella sativa* is about 23% by weight;

- (c) the shoot of *Centaureum erythrae* (spicatum or pulchellum) is about 11% by weight;
- (d) the flowers, leaves or stem of *Cynara cardunculus* var *scolymus* is about 7% by weight;
- (e) the root of *Inula helenium* (viscosa) is about 6% by weight;
- (f) the leaves of *Solenostema argel* is about 4% by weight;
- (g) the leaves or seed of *Sesbania aegyptiaca* (sesban) is about 6% by weight;
- (h) the shoot of *Cichorium intybus* (pumilum) is about 6% by weight;
- (i) the whole plant of *Cymbopogon proximus* is about 7% by weight;
- (j) the rhizome of *Hemidesmus indicus* is about 2% by weight;
- (k) the rhizome of *Rheum officinale* is about 2% by weight; and
- (l) the seed of *Cuminum cyminum* is about 2% by weight.

33. The herbal composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition does not contain *Ecballium elaterium* and includes two additional herbal extracts other than *Ecballium elaterium*.